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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter to you dated 20 March 1991 (S/22366), I have the honour to inform you that the mission led by Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari to assess the humanitarian needs arising in the immediate post-crisis environment in Iraq and Kuwait visited Kuwait from 23 to 27 March 1991.

The report of the mission is submitted herewith for the consideration of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR

Report to the Secretary-General on humanitarian needs in Kuwait in the immediate post-crisis environment by a mission to the area led by Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, dated 28 March 1991

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INTRODUCTION

1. You asked me to travel, as a matter of urgency, to Kuwait and Iraq to assess humanitarian needs there in the immediate post-crisis environment, and to bring with me a team comprising representatives of the appropriate United Nations agencies and programmes. Your decision was announced in a press statement on 1 March 1991.

2. On 3 March 1991, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council, in which it welcomed your announcement and invited you to keep it informed in the shortest possible time of the progress of this mission, in respect of which it pledged to take immediate action (S/22322).

3. I submitted a report to you on the first part of my mission, that relating to Iraq, on 20 March 1991 and, in a letter of that date, you transmitted it to the President of the Security Council (S/22366). As noted in your letter, the Mission was to commence its visit to Kuwait on 22 March 1991, and you stated that you would convey to the Council the report on that visit as soon as possible.

4. After consultations at Headquarters, I myself departed for the mission area on 23 March, arriving in Kuwait on 25 March. I was received there by the Minister of Planning of the Kuwaiti Government, Mr. Suleiman Abdul-Razaq Al-Mutawa, and by members of the mission, who had remained in Bahrain after my departure for Headquarters on 19 March and had preceded me to Kuwait on 23 March.

5. In Kuwait, the Mission comprised representatives of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It received substantial assistance from Mr. Abdulrahim Abby Farah and members of his mission who were at the time in Kuwait looking into the subject of damages sustained by Kuwait during events subsequent to 2 August 1990 and, in particular, from the technical knowledge and experience of members of Mr. Farah's mission from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was also materially assisted by representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in the Arab Gulf States, and by a World Health Organization (WHO) mission that was also in the country at that time. The mission completed its work in Kuwait on 27 March and departed on that date. I returned to New York today, 28 March 1991.

I. MODUS OPERANDI IN KUWAIT

6. In close consultation with myself, members of the mission who had remained in Bahrain while I was undertaking consultations in New York began their work immediately upon arrival in Kuwait on 23 March 1991. Teams began to meet with Kuwaiti officials in the fields of food, agriculture, water, sanitation, health, transportation, communications, energy and environmental matters, and to visit various sites and locations throughout Kuwait. Upon my arrival on 25 March 1991 I

was briefed by senior members of the mission and immediately met for a working session with Mr. Suleiman Abdul-Razaq Al-Mutawa, Minister of Planning in the Government of Kuwait. With him, I was then briefed at Camp Freedom by Brigadier-General Mooney, United States Army, and members of the Kuwaiti Joint Task Force. I met that evening with Mr. Sheikh Nasser As-Sabah, Minister of State in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and other Ministers. On 26 March I was received by His Highness, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah As-Salim As-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait. I also met with Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Fozan, Minister of Health, and with representatives of the diplomatic community. I toured the city of Kuwait and by helicopter, many parts of the country and saw conditions there. Members of the mission accompanied me on these visits and inspections and continued and completed their technical work in the country. With the excellent cooperation of Mr. Farah and his team I and my mission had access to relevant aspects of its technical findings, upon which certain parts of this report also draw. I was briefed by Dr. Daniel Tarantola of a WHO mission that had been invited to the country by the Government of Kuwait for an assessment of health conditions and needs.

7. The Kuwaiti authorities afforded the mission their fullest cooperation.

II. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN REGARD TO KUWAIT

8. A summary of the mission's findings and conclusions is set out below. It is based upon a number of internal working papers, technical annexes, visits to sites and oral reports by members of the mission and by other United Nations specialists present at the time in Kuwait.

A. General remarks

9. Kuwait is scarred by the ravages of illegal occupation and, subsidiarily, of war. At least two thirds of the population present on 2 August 1990 are now scattered throughout the world. Those who remained have fresh memory of a brutal occupation and the sacking and pillaging of their homes, their resources and their environment. Many vividly recount inhuman or degrading treatment undergone by themselves or family members. I and my mission saw for ourselves prolific evidence of arson, looting, malicious destruction of homes, businesses, markets, museums, libraries and all that a nation cherishes. Kuwait's coast is disfigured by broken buildings and rolls of barbed wire; its beaches made lethal by hundreds of thousands of mines. Above it hangs a thick cloud of oily dark smoke that, on some days, brings a chilly twilight at noon, as well as still-uncharted perils to health. No one knows exactly how many of its oil wells are on fire; but at least half, perhaps 600 to 700, are belching flames and smoke. From the air, the horizon sometimes comprises only black clouds and pillars of fire, torched in a final deliberate onslaught by retreating troops. The environmental havoc still cannot be authoritatively assessed, but its consequences are already felt by neighbouring countries, and may affect yet others still more distant. Rivers, ponds and even lakes of spilling oil lie on the sand and edge towards the wadis, the roads and the

sea. Power stations, oil refineries, communications facilities and water-desalination plants have been destroyed by war or vandalized so that they are irreparable. Harbours are blocked, ships sunk, cranes toppled. Life-preserving medical equipment, even ambulances, have been removed; mainframe computers have been ripped out of government offices and carried off.

10. This scene of devastation, some being calculated, much wanton, was, I learned, even worse four weeks ago, when Kuwaitis began to return to their liberated country. For much has already been done, as the following paragraphs will show, to put Kuwait back on the road to reconstruction. Food supplies are being brought in and distributed, although both officials and observers say that such distribution has at times been somewhat uneven. Some water and power have been restored. Petrol is being made available, free of charge, even for private vehicles. Telephone communications have been partly re-established, and international traffic will soon follow. An assessment of damages to homes, businesses and economic facilities and resources is under way, and much contracting for reconstruction has already been completed. Means of internal and external transportation are starting to function, in a limited fashion, even though there may still be limited air- and seaport capability and many vehicles were stolen or destroyed. Teams of specialists are beginning to assess and remedy the oilfield disasters. A Kuwaiti Government is in place (at this time, on a caretaker basis) and, despite vast logistical and all other species of practical problems, is drawing up plans for reconstruction. It is working closely with a joint Kuwaiti task force, comprising elements of the armed forces allied with Kuwait in the recent conflict, which was established in December 1990 to plan for the time when liberation should have taken place. The allied element of the Joint Task Force comprises civil affairs elements of the United States, United Kingdom, French, Canadian and Saudi Arabian armed forces, with medical, communications, police, transportation, intelligence, aviation, finance, engineering and sanitation specialists and teams from those Governments. At a briefing on 25 March 1991 General Mooney of the United States Army and some of his senior staff described the work of the Joint Task Force in regard to water, food and medical supplies, sanitation, power, telecommunications and transportation, as well as in regard to damage assessment and surveys during the period from December 1990 to date. He said that contracts worth more than $US 550 million had already been signed for work in these various areas. The Joint Task Force said that it believed that the country had now largely overcome the emergency phase and that it anticipated that power and communications would be effectively restored by mid-April in Kuwait City and that most services would be functioning throughout the country in between three and six months. The oil industry would take the longest to restore. The Minister of Planning called the burning of the oil wells "the crime of all centuries", because of its multifarious short- and long-term negative consequences - health, environmental, economic - for Kuwait and other countries as well. General Mooney said that the amount of unexploded mines and other ordnance was colossal. There was, he added, a good military programme for clearance, but he said that he had never seen so much of that hazard before. Many members of the mission saw unexploded weaponry during their work in Kuwait. The Task Force said that clearance of the quantities left behind exceeded the capabilities of the allied forces.

11. Kuwaiti government ministers told me that they were taking the opportunity to review questions of population composition and the future of the workforce. Prior to 2 August 1990 the population was about 2.3 million, of whom about 700,000 were Kuwaiti nationals (about 30 per cent). Most of the population had left the country during the period of occupation and conflict. At the time of my mission to Kuwait, estimates of the remaining population varied between 600,000 and 700,000, of whom perhaps one third were Kuwaitis. The authorities have recommended that their exiled countrymen not return to Kuwait for three months to allow essential services to be rehabilitated, and spoke of the possibility that the future permanent population should be limited, with others being in the country on a more or less short-term basis. They planned that return from exile should keep pace with the gradual resumption of economic activity, the re-establishment of basic social amenities and the reduction of environmental health hazards. While the mission was in Kuwait this policy had not yet been finalized.

12. As during the previous mission to Iraq, we focused our initial attention upon the basic areas of humanitarian concern: the need for shelter, food supplies, clean water, sanitation and adequate health support, as well as on the logistical capability to make these effective for the people as a whole. Particular local conditions may create additional hazards. The account which follows regarding the situation in these various areas of basic concern is affected in one form or another by the general factors that I have sketched above. Kuwait, with the assistance of the Governments cooperating with it in the Joint Task Force, is steadily assessing its needs and seeking to overcome them within the parameters which it is establishing. My recommendations are formulated in the spirit of cooperation with which my mission was received and welcomed, and in the context of the assistance of which the international community is, I believe, capable.

B. Food and agriculture

13. Prior to August 1990, Kuwait imported approximately 95 per cent of its food needs, with local agriculture and fisheries playing only a minor role in the national economy (0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1989). The country had established a six months' strategic food reserve, which was substantially looted during the occupation. Despite this, a sufficient quantity remained to sustain the population until liberation.

14. Emergency food plans for the next three months are hypothesized upon a population of 800,000. The country is organized into 40 consumer cooperatives, each having a food distribution centre. The State-run Kuwait Supply Company has, since liberation, imported large amounts of food. These staples are distributed directly to the cooperatives and then made available, free of charge, to their members. Apart from this, items such as meat, fruits, vegetables and eggs are sold at subsidized prices, and in some instances made available free of charge, to cooperative members. Private retail facilities are now also beginning to open. Some shortages, apparently due to delivery delays, have been noted in respect of baby products and, on the whole, only logistical and administration bottlenecks at frontiers have hampered the general reinstitution of supplies.

15. However, the overall situation has not as yet permitted the reinstatement of the domestic agricultural and fisheries industries whose expansion had been encouraged in recent years. The spread of oil across the land towards the sea and the heavily mined coastal areas have bleak implications for the future of this sector.

16. The mission concluded that the Kuwaiti Government has already established an effective food system aimed at ensuring proper standards of nourishment and preventing suffering amongst the whole population of Kuwait, although it heard a number of complaints that there had been discrimination against certain groups, especially in the days immediately following liberation. It does not appear that any further external food aid is required by Kuwait.

C. Water, sanitation and health

17. Kuwait's water supply depends largely on desalination and partly on artesian reservoirs. Moderate damage was done to the infrastructure by events subsequent to 2 August 1990, and the mission saw one desalination plant which appeared to have been wrecked by the departing forces and was said to be irreparable. Water has, however, been available in limited quantities and areas since liberation. The Joint Task Force informed the mission that it had distributed 11.75 million litres since that time in bulk or bottles. As power was restored, supplies were slowly returning to normal and reaching more neighbourhoods. The authorities believed that the situation would return to normal in a matter of weeks. It remains necessary, however, to monitor the quality of water being supplied, having regard to all the circumstances, including the various current environmental problems.

18. As regards sanitation, the country's three major plants suffered no structural damage and only superficial repairs are required. The Joint Task Force estimated that the system would be fully operational, having been thoroughly tested, by the end of March. A contract for the collection of garbage has been concluded and this is being undertaken.

19. Prior to 2 August 1990 the standard of health care in Kuwait was one of the highest in the world. The national health services had gradually expanded their scope by creating diagnostic and treatment facilities for non-communicable diseases, which required a constantly increasing level of technical sophistication and amount of resources. This was reflected by the number and quality of health facilities, the efficiency of the emergency care service and the creation of centres specializing in a wide range of advanced medical techniques. Six regional and 9 specialized hospitals, 72 health centres and several medico-social institutions in the country were providing medical care and rehabilitation services to the entire population, free of charge. Over 3,200 doctors and 9,900 nurses - the great majority being foreign - were providing such services, with a ratio to the population of around 2.3 million that compared favourably with most countries in the world. Many of the medical technicians whose skilled work helped to make this advanced system work were also from overseas.

20. The immediate consequence of the invasion was the departure from Kuwait of a very large number of medical personnel. The situation is now critical as regards, especially, nursing and technical staff, and the mission was told that the authorities were seeking to recruit several hundred nurses from abroad. The environment is also medically challenging, having special regard to pollution and widely prevalent explosives. Many hospitals, specialists clinics and health centres are either closed down or are operating at reduced capacity. There was little structural damage to the health facilities, which were also used by the occupying forces, but advanced equipment was removed and some destruction was carried out by departing troops. Despite these major difficulties, existing medical, surgical and dental facilities are able to deal with the most urgent needs of a population, which is temporarily reduced in size.

21. A WHO team, together with the Ministry of Public Health, has developed a plan of action for an emergency response period covering the next three months. During this time the situation would be reassessed and further plans formulated. The plan deals with reconstruction of the health care infrastructure (both human and material); the development of surveillance centres during a critical period for the appearance of health hazards; environmental health systems; disease prevention and control, particular vigilance being required during the current period; the establishment of a post-war programme to deal with post-war trauma of various kinds; and the provision of essential drugs. As to this last, while large quantities have been received from various sources, some are at or beyond expiration date, thus requiring careful inventory and verification of shipments. Other short-term needs include the resumption of diagnostic facilities and a blood bank; meeting the high demand from the population for health information and education; the restoration of emergency medical care, including intensive care units; and the reinstatement of managerial, coordinating and technical skills to rehabilitate and reconstruct the health infrastructure. In this regard, the secondment of staff on a multilateral or bilateral basis to the Ministry of Public Health, and the creation of coordinating committees are urgently required.

22. A UNICEF mission arrived in Kuwait on 1 March to provide emergency relief assistance to children. The outcome of its work was a decision to mount an airlift of urgently needed vaccines and cold-chain equipment, and the fielding of a team to assist the Government of Kuwait in dealing with the psychological trauma effects of war on children. Members of the UNICEF team briefed me and the members of my mission on 25 March 1991.

D. Environmental questions

23. Kuwait has between 1,200 and 1,400 oil wells (estimates vary). According to local sources, between 500 and 800 were premeditatedly set on fire in the last days of February by the retreating forces. They pour huge clouds of dark oily smoke into the skies, and their flames can be seen for many miles. Damaged wells are also pouring crude oil onto the desert and rivers or lakes of oil are moving forward towards roads, towns and the sea. Several, which have gone out, have had to be set on fire again in order to reduce the flow of oil onto the land. The smoke from the fires forms a dense cloud ceiling at various heights up to about

12,000 feet. Depending upon weather conditions, the smoke is visible in a number of other Persian Gulf littoral States, and I am informed that its impact could spread beyond the Gulf area. The authorities have sought international help in bringing the situation under control and a number of firms, representing 80 per cent or more of the world's present oil-well firefighting capacity, are at present in Kuwait. Work has begun on dealing with the fires, and new equipment is in some instances being built for this purpose. It is, however, made more difficult by land mines and unexploded ordnance in the surrounding areas. No authoritative estimate can as yet be given of the time that will be needed to restore the situation. It is possible that some wells could self-extinguish as water begins to be drawn into them from surrounding strata. It is estimated that about 4 to 6 million barrels of oil are burning each day.

24. Environmental protection agencies of the allied Governments have inspected the situation but there is as yet no certainty regarding the hazards to the atmosphere, to the adjacent territories or to health. The presence of smoke clouds has appeared to lower temperatures locally. They move according to climatic conditions, especially the wind, and have been reported from several other Gulf States. Depending upon atmospheric conditions, environmentalists believe that these clouds could spread further afield.

25. While the mission was unable to make or find any scientific assessment of the impact on health of these emissions, local anecdotal evidence relates to skin, eye and lung ailments, and the situation is being actively studied. It seems clear that monitoring, on a regional basis, is urgently required of the environmental, including health, aspects of the oil-well fires, and that a national infrastructure should be created in Kuwait to assess and communicate related data.

26. Urgent steps are being taken in Kuwait to prevent unignited oil from reaching the sea, thereby creating a further potential marine disaster.

27. As regards mines and other unexploded ordnance, the situation is extremely grave. A number of deaths and injuries have already been reported both among private persons and among military engineers seeking to neutralize mines. Some maps showing the location of minefields have been handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities. However, both urban and outlying areas are reported to have a plethora of live bombs, rockets, grenades and other unexploded devices. The authorities also stated that explosive booby-traps had been scattered. As regards mines, many thousands have been laid on and around beaches, along the border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and in other areas. It appears that they are of a non-ferrous composition, thus being especially difficult to locate using orthodox mine-detecting equipment. They are, moreover, reported to be at least semi-buoyant. If this be so, the future location of at least some may be anticipated to depend upon tides and currents, and to present a threat to the coasts of other Gulf States. My mission was told that engineering detachments of the allied Governments were currently engaged in dealing with the threat from mines and other unexploded ordnance, and members indeed saw military personnel remove some from the area of mission headquarters. However, the onerous task was stated to be too great for the combined resources of the allied Governments, and other engineering concerns were being contacted.

28. I believe that the threat to the civilian population of Kuwait (and possibly of other nearby States), as well as to livestock, requires urgent coordinated action in support of the endeavours of the Government, which is clearly deeply concerned over the situation. Already, a public education programme has been instituted to warn of the dangers, and many areas, including the intensively mined region on the Saudi Arabian border, may need permanent fencing with crossing points. It may also be necessary to develop medical resources for those unfortunate occasions when prevention has failed. This could include the creation of specialist units to deal with injuries and an immediate rescue operation capability.

29. I believe that the ordnance problem is of such gravity that every possible assistance, both through the United Nations and on a bilateral basis, should be extended to assist the Kuwaiti authorities with this programme on an emergency basis. Without it, an acute danger could remain for years to come. In my opinion, this may be one of the most urgent humanitarian needs, as summer begins and the population, adults and children, begins to return to their country from exile.

E. Refugees and other vulnerable groups

30. The mission was informed that the Government is in the process of formulating a policy with regard to its human resources requirements with a view to reducing Kuwait's overall dependence on foreign labour. Such review of policies and practices had not been completed at the time of the mission's departure. Depending on its outcome, a revision might affect some categories of workers and, perhaps, some national groups, who might either wish to be re-admitted or whose residence could be discontinued as a result of loss of employment.

31. During a meeting with His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah As-Salim As-Sabah on 26 March 1991, I alluded to reports emanating from Kuwait, especially in the days immediately following liberation, containing allegations affecting non-Kuwaitis, including Palestinians. The Joint Task Force had also mentioned these matters in the briefing given to me, and representatives of the authorities had emphasized steps being taken to ensure non-discriminatory treatment for the whole population. These included strengthening the police presence and deploying officials of the Ministry of Justice to each police station. His Highness assured me that many fabrications had been circulated on this subject and said that he was himself meeting that evening with a large Palestinian delegation to hear their concerns and provide every possible reassurance. In a statement issued shortly before my departure, the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Kuwaiti National Council Affairs, Mr. Badr Jassem Ya'coub, emphasized that Kuwait would apply its laws equally and without discrimination on grounds of race, origin or descent. The rule of law would be upheld, and whoever infringed it would be punished in accordance with its provisions. The statement concluded that:

"Even in the current circumstances which it is experiencing as a result of the evil aggression against its territory, Kuwait is fully prepared to receive all requests and claims regarding any practice believed to be illegal to which residents in Kuwait may have been subjected, in order that the appropriate measures regarding such practices may be taken in accordance with the precepts of the law. Kuwait also reaffirms that it is fully prepared to receive representatives from competent international bodies and organizations in order to examine this matter".

32. The mission looked into reports of numbers of displaced persons at the Kuwait-Iraq border and held discussions with the Kuwait authorities, with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, the International Organization for Migration, and with the civil administration of the United States Army concerning these persons and others without documentation. It visited a temporary camp at Abdili in northern Kuwait and the border post of Safwan.

33. The Abdili camp accommodated approximately 1,000 persons at the time of the visit, some in tents provided through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and some in makeshift shelters. Food and medical assistance is also provided by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. The camp population was composed of some 450 Egyptian nationals who were in the process of being registered for repatriation, 50 persons of various other nationalities and up to 500 Iraqis who arrived prior to a decision by the Kuwaiti authorities to admit only third-country nationals at the border checkpoint. Several thousand Iraqis are also reported displaced to the Iraqi border town of Safwan, fleeing areas of civil unrest in major cities of southern Iraq, in search of security and shelter. Most of them are accommodated in vacated premises within the city and benefit from food and medical assistance dispensed by military forces. A temporary tented camp located on the outskirts of Safwan had already received 200 newcomers only 24 hours after it had been established. This may be indicative of a reported sizeable movement of displaced persons towards the southern tip of Iraq. The mission was also informed of the presence on Kuwaiti territory and at the border with Iraq of several thousand undocumented persons, known as "bedoons", who had previously been working in Kuwait and would now wish to regain either Kuwaiti citizenship or residence.

34. In the circumstances described above and having regard to the type of humanitarian problem observed developing at the border, the mission believes that urgent action may be required including consideration by UNHCR of the establishment of an office in Kuwait. In this connection, the mission is also mindful of a possible need for rapid repatriation, assistance or protection and of the status of the Iraqi territory adjacent to Kuwait in relation to the Geneva Conventions. It would also be desirable, in my opinion, for UNHCR to initiate consultations, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration, with the Kuwaiti authorities and, as appropriate, the civil administration of the occupying forces, in order to define the most appropriate assistance or protection measures for all categories of person who may be in need.

F. Logistics: transportation, communications and energy

35. According to surveys undertaken by the United States Army's Corps of Engineers, Kuwait's roads underwent moderate damage during the events from August 1990 to February 1991 with bomb craters, surface damage by tracked vehicles and damage to three bridges. As regards Kuwait International Airport, runways and taxiways are only slightly damaged, if at all. However, the landing system, terminals and the other buildings have undergone serious damage and the control tower has been destroyed. Kuwait's two commercial ports of Shuwaikh and Shuaiba are currently being assessed. There are sunken ships and mines, and dock facilities have been seriously affected. The mission was informed that repairs to these various facilities were anticipated to be complete before the end of 1991 at a total cost of around $US 13 million. All the work is expected to be covered by bilateral agreements between Kuwait and the United States, and by commercial subcontracting.

36. The Kuwaiti vehicle fleet suffered major losses during the period. It is estimated that there were around 800,000 motor vehicles in the country in 1990, of which about 85 per cent were private cars. Approximately two thirds of this asset was reported stolen, looted or vandalized. The loss of public and private vehicles is very apparent. For instance, all Kuwait City's fire-engines and the Government's stock of ambulances were removed from the country. The mission was also informed that the authorities are organizing large-scale procurement of replacement vehicles.

37. As regards communications, major damage was caused by war, vandalism and looting to most forms of telecommunications. The Joint Task Force's surveys showed that about one third of the facilities were moderately to severely damaged. Contracts for repair and replacement have already been signed to a total value of $US 23.7 million, with leading international private companies. As of 15 March, 57 per cent of the capacity of the telecommunication facilities had been restored. There is now also a limited international service with the possibility for the whole population of free calling, within certain criteria.

38. Prior to August 1990, Kuwaiti oil production was at the rate of approximately 2 million barrels per day. Currently, at least half its oil wells are on fire; many others are severely damaged. It is estimated that between 4 and 6 million barrels per day are currently being lost and there was, at the time of the mission's presence in the country, no production of crude oil or refined products. However, certain reserves are in storage and are being replenished by imports. Repairs to certain facilities are under way and, it is anticipated, production may be resumed by the end of April to a sufficient degree to sustain adequate supplies of electricity and other services to the population. The timing of a return to previous levels of production is problematical.

39. Electrical supplies have already been restored to most of Kuwait. Its previous power system was regarded as one of the most advanced in the world, with a highly developed grid system. All four of its power stations were damaged during the events. Repairs are under way, as well as to more than 40 substations that incurred varying degrees of damage.

40. My mission has concluded that, despite severe damage done to the nation's transportation, communications' and energy resource base, the process of repair and replacement has already proceeded to such a degree that the systems are fully capable of providing adequate support for humanitarian needs.

G. Observations

41. There can be no doubt that a deliberate attempt was made to extinguish Kuwait, its national identity, the pride of its people in their history and achievements. The manner of destruction, with its coordinated vandalism and massive looting, leaves an indelible image. It was a privilege for me and the members of my team to witness the rebirth of a nation, however painful the circumstances. Already, with the cooperation of its friends and allies, the country has made remarkable progress in dealing with immediate humanitarian needs. It is now moving swiftly towards meeting the major tasks of reconstruction. Therefore, little in the way of traditional humanitarian aid is immediately required of the international community at large. Certain vital assistance, as described above, is, however, urgently necessary so that the suffering of the population of Kuwait is not further prolonged, and so that it and its neighbours can again live in good health and peace.

42. Finally, I should like to place on record my appreciation to the executive heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDRO, UNEP, WFP, FAO and WHO for the cooperation which permitted a mission of so wide a range of specializations and experience to work with me in Iraq and Kuwait. I believe it most important that the United Nations family of organizations establish ever-closer coordination, and matters of emergency humanitarian assistance provide an excellent area in which this can be developed further. I was especially fortunate in the members assigned to this mission. Their objectivity, expertise and professionalism, often under trying circumstances, and the excellent spirit of cooperation, reminded me once again of the great reservoir of experience and dedication available to the United Nations.